App. F. IX-4

*Previous References.*

File No. 62 - 41

Serial Nos. 11

*Later References.*

PRESERVED

# AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

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Part B for

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**SUBJECT.**

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dated 22nd

300-641

Prisons Reforms — Religious and moral instruction — Discussions and debat

General and Revenue Secretariat — File No. 62 of 1941. — [App. F. III—2

Serial No.

1) In para 26 of chapter VI of the Report, the Prisons Reforms Committee observes that occasional evening discussions and debat subjects chosen by the prisoners themselves or suggested to them have proved in English prisons to be of great value. The Committee however doubt whether the conditions of Indi prisons afford equal scope in this respect, bu they recommend that the system may be tried at all events experimentally.

2) Speaking of the system prevailin in English prisons, Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise Chairman of the Prison Commission for Engl Wales, observes —

"The experiment has been successful in large prisons of allowing men (prisoners) to meet together under the presi of the Chaplain, or other official, for the purpose of a debate or discussion on a sub chosen by themselves. The proceedings are conducted on the lines of similar meetings in free life, and as long as due order is mainta there is no objection to the expression of natural feelings. The object of these efforts is not merely educational. Experience has shown that they have a psychological

Serial No.

ffect, which is even of greater importance
d value. They provide healthy food for
ought during many solitary hours, and so
ind to prevent morbid introspection, brooding
ver wrongs or worrying about family
ffairs; they break the unavoidable
onotony of institution life, and provide
mental stimulus which is of the utmost
alue. But more than this, the mere fact
hat a prisoner is trusted, if only for as
hort time, to control himself without the
restraint of authority, is of immense value
in building up that self-respect, without
which restoration is impossible"

Vide: The English Prison system page = 128.

3) These debates and discussions
usually take place in English prisons
in the evenings after working hours.

4) The I.G. of Prisons however
states that under existing conditions, it
is not feasible to arrange for such
discussions and debates. He has not stated
what these conditions are which stand
in the way of the introduction of the
system. The Committee themselves recognise
that there may not be scope in Indian
prisons for this respect, all the same

PRISONS 89

General and Revenue Secretariat | File No | of 194 . | [App. F. III—2

Serial No.

they recommend that this system ~~may~~ be given a trial at least as an experimental measure. In view of the success which has attended this system in England, it will for consideration whether this system may not be introduced in the Central Jail at least, with suitable safeguards if necessary to prevent such meetings being made use of for propaganda purposes by political prisoners. The I. G. of Prisons may perhaps be requested to state why he considers the introduction of this system to be not feasible under existing circumstances and whether it is not possible to overcome these limiting conditions.

MRV 13/1/42

(Law Secy)

'A' may be done

Hm 2 15.1.42. MRV 15/1/42

a) Draft letter is submitted for approval.

b) Issue MRV 20/1/42

Issued Letter No P 3316 dated 21.1.42

Secy A 21/1

Note—Contn. Sheet.

SECY. LAW DEPT. 455 - 13 JAN 1942 GOVT OF MYSORE

PRISONS

Reforms: — 595

File No. | of 194 . | General and Revenue Secretariat.

From

Serial No.

Secy Dy of Prisons,
Letter No. 532-39 dated 7.5.1942
stating that the present Law not reached the standard of holding evening discussions & debates and that outside dramas & lectures may be held on Sundays & Prison Holidays with the help of the Religious Ministers

11

1) Submitted: Kind reference is invited to orders at paras 4 & 5 of the note supra.

Submitted for orders if the suggestions of the Dy. may be adopted.

2) Please look up the Jail Reforms Committee Report and note if the Committee themselves have not made recommendations in respect of enactment of dramas etc

Mev 15/5

3) Submitted: There seems to be no such items suggested by the Committee in their report.

15/5

4) The Committee themselves recommend in another part of their Report (Paras 24 and 25 of chapter VI) lectures on lay subjects by outsiders which the I.G.P. proposes to substitute for debates and discussions by the prisoners themselves. It was in addition

PRISONS

Reforms



Serial No.

MAY 18 1942
11897

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to such lectures that the ~~Com~~ Committee recommended debates and discussions, and they were well aware of the standard of intelligence and education available in the jail when they made the recommendations. As a matter of ~~fact~~ fact the committee themselves doubts whether the conditions of Indian prisons afford scope in this respect. All the same they recommend that this system may be tried ~~as~~ experimentally at all events. The system may perhaps be given a trial at least for an years and the position then reviewed. The I. G. of Prisons may be requested to send detailed proposals for giving effect to the recommendation.

A
Typs.

JMW 15/5

Law Secy) It 'A' may be approved.

Minister for Law

Hm 2 16/5/42 JMW 18/5

12) Papers with the Jt Sec Prisons

Dewan)

18/5

13) Hill 20/5/42

21/5

21/5/42

GEOY. LAW DEPT 4470 15 MAY 1942 GOVT OF MYSORE

WD/C4155—GPB—55,000—23-10-41

591 V

Prison reforms - discussions and debates for prisoners in jails.

File No. 62 of 1941

General and Revenue Secretariat

Serial No.

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR LAW
JUN 16 1942
No. 12675

SECY. LAW DEPT. 4807 28 MAY 1942 GOVT OF MYSORE

Draft G.O put up for consideration.

27/5/42 ..... Please get it typed and put up.

Typed draft put up for approval.

28/5

Law Secy)
Law Minister)

16.6.42

17/6

17.6

Re 88 of Prisons.

G.O. No P. 5719 dt 22-6-42

Accord sanction to an addition of Rule 269 A to the Mysore Jail Manual.

B
3/7/42.

Appendix F G—1]

SUBJECT .....

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.....

*Diary No. of letter replied to*.....

General and Revenue Secretariat

( )

*the* *19* .

Date of issue 21.1.42

Signed by Mr. K.P.P.

List of enclosures .....

Copied by .....

Examined by .....

**Section**

**File No.**

**Serial No.**

No. P3316.

To

The Dy of Posts.

Subject:— Occasional evening duties & debates for Posts

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your Memo on the above subject and to enquire why you consider the introduction of the system to be not feasible owing the existing circumstances & which it is not possible to overcome by limiting Overtime, if ~~there are such~~ any such conditions.

I am etc,

WD 086—GPB—40,000—30-7-40

19/1/42

21/1/42

for SG & Ex Comb. Lawley

5952-41

Office of the Inspector-General of Prisons in Mysore.

Tele | gram : Senorgen.
phone : No. 2462.

No. 532-39
Enc.

REV. SECRETARIAT 2 MAY 1942 INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

*Bangalore, dated the* 29th ~~April~~ 1st May *194* 2.

FROM

V. V. MONTEIRO, ESQ., M.B.B.S., F.R.F.P.S. (GLAS.), L.D.S (ENG.),
Offg. *Inspector-General of Prisons in Mysore,*
*BANGALORE.*

To

The Secretary to the Government of H.H.
the Maharaja of Mysore, Law Department,
Bangalore.

SECY. LAW DEPT. 1942 GOVT OF MYSORE

Subject:- Occasional evening discussions and debates for prisoners in Jails.

With reference to your letter No. P. 3316/Pris. dated the 21st January 1942 on the above subject, I have the honour to state that, ~~as Government are aware~~, discussions and debates are for persons who have some amount of developed intelligence and have also reached a certain standard of education. As the prisoners in our Jails have not reached the required standard, I am of opinion that it is not worthwhile introducing the system. I would suggest that lectures on lay subjects, dramatic farces and plays conveying moral lessons may be tried with the help of the teachers and the religious ministers in the Jails. The lectures may be given and the dramas enacted, on Sundays and Prison Holidays. Plays and concerts by outsiders may also be encouraged.

Flag A

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Offg. Inspector-General of Prisons.

G. R. S. App. F VI—G 2]

SUBJECT ..... Occasional evening discussions and debates for Prisoners in Jails.

*Diary No. of letter replied to* .....

General and Revenue Secretariat

( )

*the* *194* .

Date of issue ..... 22/6/ 194 2.

Signed by Mr. M. K. V.

**Section** - Pris.

**File No.** -62-41.

**Serial No.** 11

*Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.*

*Read*— Recommendation No.145 of the Prison Reforms Committee regarding the provision of facilities to prisoners for evening discussions and debates, and the views of the I.G. of Prisons thereon

**May this be—**

(i) printed ?

(ii) treated as a standing order ?

(iii) published in the Gazette. English Part ?

(iv) translated ?

(v) placed at the disposal of the press ?

(vi) published in the Gazette, Kannada Part ?

Order thereon—No.P. 5719

Dated Bangalore 22nd June ~~May~~ 194

In para 26 of Chapter VI of their Report the Prison Reforms Committee observe that occasional evening discussions and debates on subjects chosen by the prisoners themselves or suggested to them, have proved in English prisons

to be of great value. The Committee, however, feel doubtful whether the conditions of Indian prisons afford equal scope in this respect, but they recommend that the system may be tried at all events experimentally.

The Inspector General of Prisons he was consulted in the matter is of opinion states that the prisoners in Mysore Jails have not reached the standard of education and intelligence required for carrying on discussions and debates, and that he is of opinion that it is not worthwhile introducing the system. He suggests that lectures on lay subjects, dramatic farces and plays conveying moral lessons may be tried with the help of the teachers and the religious Ministers in the Jails on Sundays and prison Holidays and that plays and concerts by outsiders may also be encouraged.

*List of Enclosures*

*Copied by*

*Examined by*

Government are pleased to approve of the suggestion of the Inspector General of Prisons. and direct that the

4 Copies.

G. R. S. App. F. G. 3.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(*Continuation sheet draft form.*)

that the following rule be inserted as Rule 269-A after Rule 269 of the Jail Manual :-

" 269-A. - The Superintendent may with the help of the teachers and the religious ministers in the Jails arrang for lectures on lay subjects, dramatic farces and plays conveying moral lessons or plays or concerts by outsiders on Sundays and prison holidays."

16.6.42

Secretary to Government,
Law Department.

To

The Inspector General of Prisons.